

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



February 22, 2016

Esteemed Chairs Butler and Winfield,
Esteemed members of the Housing Committee:

The Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) supports the purpose of SB 153, which aims to preserve affordable housing for seniors. With the graying of the state's population, affordable senior housing is becoming a critical need, yet it is one that current law works against.

Connecticut's affordable housing law (§8-30g) does not fully count senior housing subject to an affordable housing deed restriction as affordable. This unequal treatment has the perverse effect of disincentivizing the creation of new affordable senior housing and disincentivizing the renewal of affordability deed restrictions on existing senior housing.

WestCOG asks that you consider tweaking §8-30g to credit fully all deed-restricted senior housing and supportive housing towards municipal obligations under the law. Such an improvement would create a strong incentive to create new affordable senior housing and to preserve deed restrictions on existing senior affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis R. Pickering". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Francis R. Pickering
Executive Director